

Remarks/Arguments

This Amendment has been prepared in response to the Office Action taken in this case dated July 28, 2005. In that Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over a prior art combination including U.S. Patent No. 5,271,203 to Nagle, U.S. Patent No. 3,225,501 to McCaron, and U.S. Patent No. 1,568,777 to Smith (a newly cited reference in the prosecution of this case). Additionally, the Examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the same combination applied in the rejection of claims 2 and 5, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,663,322 to Listle.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Examiner's Action and comments, along with the cited and applied prior art references, and the specification, claims and drawings in the instant application, and by the present Amendment proposes certain claim revisions which are believed now to place all claims remaining in this application, on the basis of entry of this Amendment, clearly in conditions for allowance.

By the present Amendment, only claims 2, 5 and 6 are presented, with claim 2 being a previously presented claim, claim 5 being a currently amended claim, and claim 6 being a new claim.

Pages 3 and 10 in the specification have been amended to provide certain antecedent nomenclature for terminology now found in the currently presented claims.

An important feature of applicant's invention which is clearly recited in applicant's claimed structure -- a feature which is neither directly taught nor suggested in any one or a combination of any of the cited and applied prior art references -- is the presence, in the base of the tubular wall structure of a column, of a through-wall passage which opens to the inside and to the

outside of the column, and a distribution of anchoring material disposed inside the bucket well which receives the column base, including a volume of that material which is located on the inside hollow interior of the base of the column, a skirt portion which circumsurrounds the outside of the column base in the region between the column base and the side walls of the bucket well, and a bridging anchoring portion which forms a continuum extending through the column's through-wall passage to join homogeneously with the skirt and volume portions of the anchoring material. The presence of this through-wall passage, and of the continuum, bridging, anchoring portion of the anchoring material, results in what can be thought of as a positive, anti-vertical relative motion locking condition between the base of a column, the anchoring material, and the bucket well, which locking condition simply does not exist in any of the cited and applied art. Neither is it suggested by that art.

The presence of this bridging anchoring portion of the anchoring material, in the setting of its extension through a through-wall passage in the wall near the base of a column, introduces a locked-in-place condition for a column which is not achieved by any of the cited and applied prior art disclosures. Nothing in any of the cited art structures suggests the presence of such a through-wall passage which cooperates in allowing the anchoring material to lock a column in place positively against accidental vertical "escape" from the associated bucket well and the otherwise engaging anchoring material.

All claims now presented in this application provide a very clear positive recitation of this cooperative relationship between a through-wall passage in a column base and a bridging anchoring continuum portion of an anchoring material, which material is also homogeneously disposed both on the inside and around the outside of a column base.

For the reasons thus set forth the above, all claims now presented in this application, on the basis of entry of this Amendment, clearly distinguish from anything shown or suggested by any one or a combination of the several cited and applied prior art references. These claims are, accordingly, are fully patentable in view of the cited and applied art, and applicant therefore requests favorable reconsideration of this application, and allowance now of the three claims presented in this case. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the amendment or remarks, the Examiner is invited to contact Attorney-of-Record Jon M. Dickinson, Esq., at 503-504-2271.

Provisional Request for Extension of time in Which to Respond

Should this response be deemed to be untimely, Applicants hereby request an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any over-payment to Account No. 22-0258.

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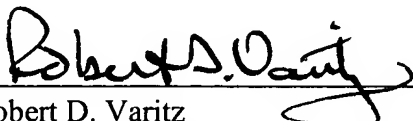
Respectfully Submitted,

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